



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Mike Laird
Onboard NOAA Ship RAINIER
July 24 - August 13, 2005**

Log 13

Day 17/18: Wednesday, August 10 and Thursday, August 11

Time: 13:00

Latitude: 56° 05.13 ' N

Longitude: 155° 00.02 ' W

Visibility: 10 nautical miles (nm)

Wind Direction: 170°

Wind Speed: 6kts

Sea Wave Height: 0-1 '

Swell Wave Height: 2 '

Sea Water Temperature: 12.2° C

Sea Level Pressure: 1028.5 mb

Cloud Cover: Sky 8/8 covered; Lower level: stratus

Mid level: altostratus

Science and Technology Log

The survey operations being conducted in the waters around Mitrofanina have been closed as we begin our transit that leads to the end of an educational and entertaining 22-day voyage onboard the RAINIER. The RAINIER's reputation as one of the most productive hydrographic survey platforms in the world can be attributed, in large part, to her officers and crew. The people who serve onboard the RAINIER come with different backgrounds, levels of education, and amounts of experience at sea. They come for different reasons, plan to stay for different periods of time, and have different expectations of where their service on the RAINIER will lead them. However, each of them takes pride in doing their job well. Not only does the survey and support work require everyone's contribution but also the safety of the people and ship demands constant teamwork and cooperation.

During the time I spent on the RAINIER, everyone I interacted with was friendly and attempted to involve us in the day-to-day operations of the ship as much as possible. I felt like a member of the team, not an outsider, and was encouraged to participate in all aspects of ship life. All ship personnel made themselves available and patiently answered the multitudes of questions sent their way. As a result, I have learned a lot (admittedly there is a great deal more to learn) during these three weeks about the science and technology behind hydrographic research and the importance of strong support from the following areas: the officer corps, deck, engineering, electronics, the steward's department, and ship's yeoman. Without their support, the survey crew's work would not happen.

So as we draw closer to Homer, AK and the end of my journey with the RAINIER, I would like to thank the officers and crew of the RAINIER for inviting me along for the ride!

Now – some miscellaneous stuff that didn't fit anywhere else in my logs:

Fuel capacity of the RAINIER: 112,000 gallons

Recreational activities available during off duty hours:

Fishing: salmon (king, coho, pink); yelloweye rockfish; black rockfish;
lingcod

Sea kayaking

Shore exploration if a skiff is available

Movies – available most hours

Exercise area: free weights, weight machine, rowing machine,
stationary bike, and treadmills (2)

Computer games in the crew library

Cribbage

Whale watching

Electronic newspaper (New York Times Digest) complete with crossword

College degrees held by officers and crew (list is not all inclusive):

Marine science

Electronic engineering and technology

Biology

Geographic biology

Electrical engineering

Environmental studies

Anthropology

Physics

Zoology

Oceanographic engineering

Shoreline engineering

Personal Log

We are scheduled to arrive in Homer around 8:00a.m. tomorrow. The first liberty vehicles will be available in the afternoon, and I'm planning to head into town to do a little gift shopping. I was not home for my wife's birthday (although I did send a card, and called to wish her happy birthday from Kodiak during our refueling stop), and I have to find something really good. Planning to go to Alaska Wild Berry Products shop (I received a helpful hint before leaving home that there is one located "right in Homer"). I also plan to check out the Pratt Museum, a place called the Blackberry Bog - sounded like an interesting shop, and of course the Salty Dog (the local watering hole). I only

have two more nights on the ship. Have to pack up, clean the room, and vacate the premises before the arrival of the next teacher at sea Saturday afternoon. I'll spend Saturday night at the Bidarka Inn in Homer before flying out Sunday night. It's been great – couldn't ask for a better experience!